

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1 1. An incoming mail monitoring system, said system comprises:

2 a plurality of identification cards that contain a code that uniquely identify  
3 mailers;

4 a plurality of receptacles that reads and stores the unique identifying  
5 number contained in the card after the mail entered the interior of the receptacle; and

6 a data center that stores the unique code and receives the unique code  
7 from the receptacles to determine if the mailer is permitted to enter mail in the  
8 receptacle.

9 2. The system claimed in claim 1, wherein the receptacle units include a  
2 scanner that reads the card.

1 3. The system claimed in claim 2, wherein the scanner captures and  
2 interprets the information contained in the postal indicia.

1 4. The system claimed in claim 2, wherein the scanner is located in a control  
2 chamber.

1           5.     The system claimed in claim 4, wherein the control chamber has a locked  
2 door for isolating suspect mail.

1           6.     The system claimed in claim 4, wherein the interior of the receptacle  
2 comprises:

3                 an inner chamber that receives mail from the control chamber that is not  
4 suspected of having life-harming material.

1           7.     The system claimed in claim 6, wherein the inner chamber has a locked  
2 door in which when open mail may be removed from the inner chamber.

1           8.     The system claimed in claim 4, further including a slot for depositing mail into  
2 the control chamber.

1           9.     The system claimed in claim 8, further including: means for closing the slot  
2 when the mail in the control chamber is suspected of containing life-harming  
3 substances.

1           10.    The system claimed in claim 8, further comprising means for indicating a  
2 message indicating the status of the receptacle.

1 11. The system claimed in claim 1, wherein the data center correlates the  
2 recipient address of the mail with unique information contained in card.

1 12. The system claimed in claim 1, wherein the receptacles includes the time  
2 and date that the mail was deposited in the receptacle.

1 13. The system claimed in claim 12, wherein the receptacles include the  
2 location of the receptacle.

1 14. The system claimed in claim 1, wherein the receptacle unit includes:  
2 means for informing the post of possibility of the presence of life-harming material in the  
3 mail.

1 15. The system claimed in claim 1, wherein the mailer's unit includes means  
2 for automatically transmitting information to the data center at predetermined intervals.

1 16. The system claimed in claim 1, wherein the recipient's unit includes  
2 means for automatically transmitting information to the data center at predetermined  
3 intervals.

1 17. The system claimed in claim 1, wherein the unique information on the card  
2 is encrypted.